

Message

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY REPORT

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Report Highlights

**Bloomberg
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Highlights

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LEADING THE NEWS

Senate Confirms David Bernhardt to Lead Interior Department

By Catherine Dodge and Jennifer A. Dlouhy

The Senate confirmed David Bernhardt on April 11 to be secretary of the Interior, putting a former energy and natural resources lobbyist in charge of the agency that oversees drilling, grazing and other activities on public land and in federal waters.

Trump is 'Fair-Weather Federalist' on Environment, Critics Say

By David Schultz

President Donald Trump's new executive orders to streamline oil and gas pipeline projects could strip states of some authority on water and energy issues, leading some to question whether the administration's oft-stated

"cooperative federalism" principle is actually "convenient federalism" or "fair-weather federalism."

Senate Energy Panel Duo Wants to Craft Carbon Capture 'Moonshot'

By Abby Smith

The Energy Department's carbon capture research programs could undergo a major tuneup if the Senate energy committee's bipartisan duo has its way.

AIR, WATER, AND WASTE

EPA Gives GE Nod on Hudson River Cleanup—For Now (1)

By John Herzfeld

General Electric Co. got a long-awaited decision from the EPA that the company has finished its cleanup of chemical contamination of the Hudson River—for now.

EPA Proposes Changes in Cleanup Plan for Butte Mining Site

By Tripp Baltz

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing changes to the existing cleanup plan for contaminated soil, ground water, and surface water laced with heavy metals at a Superfund site in Butte, Mont., where mining activities took place in the past.

Seller of PCB-Laden Buildings Liable as Superfund Arranger

By Peter Hayes

A property owner who sold contaminated buildings knowing they'd be demolished is liable as an arranger for disposal of hazardous substances under the Superfund law, the Eighth Circuit said.

Volkswagen Keeps Former Diesel Class Case in Federal Court

By Martina Barash

A Volkswagen dealership successfully forced a California case over diesel vehicles with emissions-cheating software out of state court.

Lawmakers Demand Action on Unfinished Pipeline Safety Rules (1)

By Sylvia Carignan

The head of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is facing increasing pressure from lawmakers to bolster safety regulations as the number of deadly and destructive gas pipeline incidents increases.

House Panel Asks Utilities for Details in Probe of EPA Air Chief

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

Top Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee are asking eight utility companies to divulge details about their interactions with a group devoted to fighting power plant regulations, amid concerns EPA's top air regulator is continuing to carry out its agenda inside the agency.

CHEMICALS

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Blasts Vietnam Over Glyphosate Ban

By Pat Rizzuto and Adam Allington

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said Vietnam's decision to ban glyphosate-based weedkillers will harm agriculture globally.

EPA to Update Ethylene Oxide Limits Amid Sterigenics Concerns

By Stephen Joyce

The EPA will propose to update a 25-year-old emissions standard for ethylene oxide, a carcinogen, the agency said in an April 10 statement.

CLIMATE

Exxon to Face Investor Votes on Climate, Gulf Coast Chemicals

By Kevin Crowley

Exxon Mobil Corp. shareholders will vote in May on proposals to form a board committee on climate change and disclose the risks posed by rising sea levels to its Gulf Coast petrochemical investments.

Republicans Who Can't Ignore Climate Change Seek GOP Solutions

By Ari Natter

Texas Senator John Cornyn, who once voted against a measure that said climate change was man-made, is now helping fellow Republicans craft legislation to combat global warming through "energy innovation."

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Trump Plan to Ship Natural Gas by Rail Stokes 'Bomb Train' Fears

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

President Donald Trump wants to allow natural gas to be shipped in railroad cars, a move that would open new markets hungry for the fuel but could risk catastrophic accidents if one were to derail.

Senators to Unveil Bill Extending Tax Credits to Battery Storage

By Dean Scott

A Democratic and a Republican senator will introduce a bill April 11 that would extend existing investment tax credits to battery energy storage for homes and businesses.

Uranium Miners Preparing for Trump to Order Quotas for U.S. Ore

By Ari Natter

Two small U.S. uranium producers feel confident enough of having convinced the Trump administration to impose limits on imports of the radioactive metal that they've begun expanding their mines.

Dominion Gas Project's Downstream Climate Impacts Get Hearing

By Rebecca Kern

Federal energy regulators defended their decision to exclude an assessment of a pipeline project's upstream and downstream environmental impacts, telling a federal court they weren't warranted under the law because the scope of the work was too small and hard to quantify.

CAPITOL HILL

EPA's Focus Must Be Hiring, Not Reorganizing, Sen. Udall Says

By Abby Smith

Trump EPA officials should focus more resources on filling vacant positions at the agency rather than reshuffling offices for the sake of efficiency, the top Democrat on the Senate panel overseeing EPA's budget says.

INSIGHT

INSIGHT: Carbon Markets Beyond 2020: Achieving Breakthrough on Paris Agreement

By Daniel Rossetto

The Earth is heating up, and so is the consensus that more needs to be done about it.

FROM THE STATES

New York City to Eliminate Most Single-Use Plastic Food Ware

By Keshia Clukey

New York City will reduce its purchases of single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, and cups by 95 percent, according to an executive order signed April 11 by Mayor Bill de Blasio (D).

Puerto Rico Joins Push to Banish Fossil Fuel From Power Grids

By Brian Eckhouse

Add Puerto Rico to the list of U.S. places swearing off fossil fuels.

California Offshore Wind Farms Likely A Decade-Plus Away

By Bobby Magill

The first offshore wind farm off the California coast is likely at least seven years away because the industry is still grappling with the technical challenges of building floating wind farms in deep water, industry analysts said April 10.

California Power Giant Edison Takes Wildfire Woes to the Feds

By Jim Efstathiou Jr.

After months of lobbying California to fix its wildfire liability problems, utility giant Edison International is turning to the federal government for help.

California's Newsom Is Said to Propose Fund to Aid PG&E

By Mark Chediak

Less than three months after California's PG&E Corp. filed for bankruptcy amid crippling wildfire liabilities, Governor Gavin Newsom (D) is planning to raise the idea of an insurance fund that utilities could use to cover fire damages, people familiar with the plan said.

Duke to Appeal Coal Ash Order That It Says Could Cost \$5 Billion

By Jim Efstathiou Jr.

Duke Energy Corp. said it will appeal an order to excavate toxic coal ash from North Carolina power plants that the company says could add \$5 billion to cleanup costs.

California Dam Climate Change Case Revived

By Emily C. Dooley

Concerns about climate change and wildlife near a hydroelectric facility at a California dam will get another look after the California Supreme Court in San Francisco ordered an appellate review April 10.

PG&E Under Criminal Investigation for Deadly 2018 Camp Fire

By Joel Rosenblatt and Mark Chediak

PG&E Corp. is under criminal investigation in Butte County over the deadliest fire in California's history, according to a lawyer representing victims of the 2018 blaze.

AROUND THE GLOBE

Australia Heads to Election in Showdown Over Taxes, Climate

By Jason Scott

Prime Minister Scott Morrison called Australia's election for May 18, with polls showing he's facing an uphill battle to prevent a shift in power to the left-leaning opposition Labor party.

India PM's Plan for Ganges River Cleanup Spending Under Scrutiny

By Lou Del Bello

India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party has come under fire ahead of this week's first round of national elections, as an investigation revealed that part of the money set aside for its flagship program to rejuvenate the Ganges River hasn't been spent.

Rio Threatens to Quit Lobby Groups That Don't Share Climate View

By Thomas Biesheuvel

Rio Tinto Group said it will walk away from industry lobby groups that clash with its views on coal mining and climate change, as the world's second-biggest miner becomes increasingly vocal on the subject.

Muni-Bond Buyers Want Tax Breaks. Saving the Earth? Not So Much

By Martin Z. Braun

There appears to be a good reason why states and cities don't go out of the way to market their bonds to environmentally conscious investors: it doesn't save them any money.

Polish Banks Are Losing Their Desire to Finance Coal Investments

By Konrad Krasuski

Poland's biggest state-controlled banks have joined the global industry's retreat from funding fossil-fuel projects, adding to pressure on investment plans at power producers.

Climate Group With \$32 Trillion Pushes Corporate Transparency

By Kelly Gilblom

A group of Royal Dutch Shell Plc executives sat in a conference room in the company's Hague headquarters in November. On the other side of the table were representatives for two small shareholders: the pensions board of the Church of England and Dutch fund manager Robeco Institutional Asset Management BV. The leaders of Europe's largest energy company realized that after months of argument, they'd lost.

Giant Investor Sees Profit From Fight Against Climate Change

By Mathew Carr and Kelly Gilblom

Legal & General Group Plc, one of the world's biggest investors that oversees \$1.3 trillion, has modeled the climate crisis and sees both risk and a big opportunity.

Bloomberg Environment

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